

**Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment**

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan; Barbara B. Rutt and Terry W. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale and seconded by Mr. Melendez to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the work session of January 11, 2016 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the work session as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the regular meeting of January 21, 2016 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

Several individuals signed up for public comment. Dr. Gray stated that the Board has the discretion to allow public comment after the comment period has ended and would allow individuals wishing to comment on the WEIC plan to speak.

Ms. Johnson noted that written public comment was received via email by Cecil Clark and read it into the record. Mr. Clark was supporting the passing score proposed by the Professional Standards Board for the PPAT Performance Assessment.

Frank Livoy from the University of Delaware spoke in support of the edTPA and PPAT cut scores as proposed for action by the State Board.

Mike Matthews from the Red Clay Education Association commented on Kindergarten and its curriculum. He stated that Kindergarten should be less Common Core and more on social and emotional aspects. Mr. Matthews also urged the State Board to hold its meeting in a larger venue.

Zyair Whittington addressed the Board on out of school suspension and Nasir Whittington commented on communication from the home to school and noted the need for a better understanding on home issues by the school.

Chandra Pitts commented on justice in education and having a voice in the City of Wilmington. She spoke of the high incarceration rate and how education is the first deterrent.

Adriana Leela Bohm is a parent and spoke on the social justice issue in the City of Wilmington and the need for equitable funding and weighted funding.

Sanaa Bailey spoke on schools and on education. She is trying to make a difference in her community and highlighted various factors that play a key role in a student's education.

### Public Comment – WEIC

Representative Stephanie Bolden noted that she is a former teacher and commented on the number of students that are falling behind and the high number of students in special education in the City of Wilmington. She also asked why there were five school districts in the City and questioned why the students had to attend high school out of the city.

Representative Charles Potter commented on the past when the City of Wilmington had the best schools and how the community has been divided. He urged the State Board to move forward with the WEIC proposal.

Hope Bellamy is a local business owner in the City of Wilmington and asked for more accountability noting that a quality education is crucial and the reality that is wanted for the community.

Jea Street stated there have been 41 years of inequity in the school system. He noted the five school districts in the City of Wilmington and the example of a recent weather event where two districts were on a delay and three were not. He also stressed the need for weighted funding.

### Additional Public Comment

Veronica Abori noted she was from the Netherlands and spoke on the kinds of lessons and educational activities and programs that are needed to support schools in the community.

Jonathan Wilson spoke on education as a workforce issue and state he supports the weighted funding proposal.

### **Committee Reports from State Board Members, Update from Executive Director Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts, Secretary's Report**

#### Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mrs. Bunting attended the DSBA Board meeting and noted that John Marinucci has been appointed the new Executive Director for the Delaware School Boards Association. She attended the TOY Advisory meeting, the DOE all staff meeting and the Governor's Birth to Eight Summit. Ms. Johnson highlighted some of the items and news briefs shared under the Executive Director's report. She provided the Board members with her comments before the Joint Finance Committee. Ms. Johnson also spoke on the discussion panel on early learning workforce reforms at the Governor's Birth to Eight Summit.

Dr. Gray provided a shout out to the recipients of the STEM Educator Awards: Michelle Harris, Smyrna Elementary; Travis Bower, Selbyville Middle School; Jeffrey Kilner and Robert Gibson, Sussex Central High School; and James Sekcienski at Appoquinimink High School.

#### Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

Ms. Johnson provided a quick update and highlighted the reading assessment for teachers that asks that teachers know how to teach reading, currently being reviewed by the Professional Standards Board.

### Secretary's Report

Secretary Godowsky commented on the professional development designed for members of the Dream Team that is aligned to the math standards. He also stated that the Department hosted the recent Governor's Cabinet meeting and refreshments were provided by the students from the Dover High School Culinary Department and Frear Elementary third graders highlighted the Chinese Immersion program.

Secretary Godowsky highlighted the Department's all staff meeting noting that Karin Chenoweth was the guest speaker. He also provided an update on DCAS Alt1 and Alt2, recognition schools and his meeting with state and federal agencies on the recent rash of bomb threats.

### **Presentation by Teacher of the Year**

The State Board recognized Sandra Hall, Delaware's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Hall is a fourth grade teacher at North Smyrna Elementary School in the Smyrna School District. She was presented with the State Board's Order of Excellence and an honorarium. Ms. Hall commented on how she became a teacher and meeting the needs of all children but also knowing their whole story.

The Board recessed from 2:25 p.m. to 2:38 p.m.

### **Action on WEIC Final Proposal**

#### Action on WEIC Final Proposal

Dr. Gray noted that the State Board received the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission's revised report on February 11<sup>th</sup> and its addendum to the final report of December 16, 2015. The report was entitled "Redistricting in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County: A Transition, Resource and Implementation Plan." She noted that the Board's action on January 21, 2016 was to return the plan noting the Board's concerns. The record was highlighted which included minutes from WEIC meetings and subcommittees, correspondence and public comment from November 17 through January 14<sup>th</sup>. The record also included the transcripts from the public hearings.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the WEIC Redistricting Plan with Addendum as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez. Tony Allen, WEIC Chair, joined the State Board to respond to any questions.

There was a lengthy discussion on different aspects of the plan including equity of best practices for all students in Wilmington and that six of the ten schools in Wilmington are priority schools. The Board asked if the districts have signed off on the final proposed/revised plan. Action by the district boards to approve the WEIC plans were before the final proposal was submitted to the State Board, however each New Castle County district has a representative on the Commission. The Board asked how implementation of the plan would increase student outcomes, increase the graduation rate, and close the achievement gap. Mr. Allen noted that there would be annual evaluations. The Board asked what WEIC was adding that would improve student outcomes and

teaching and learning. Mr. Allen cited the many social supports and partnerships that would take place. There was also discussion that other school districts in the state have students in poverty. Mr. Allen acknowledged that Sussex County did have a higher poverty rate and noted that the WEIC plan in the City of Wilmington could be used a pilot for changes statewide.

Board members stressed that the Board is not adversaries to WEIC and are behind fair funding 100%. Board members also commented about their concern for pausing the initiative if there is not successful funding or academic success. There was also discussion on the priority school plan submitted by the Christina School District. Board members also expressed concern on the wording of the resolution. Some Board members preferred the word “may” over the word “shall.”

There was discussion on no unfunded mandates as well as the General Assembly designating the funding. The funds placed in the Governor’s recommended budget were also discussed and questions were asked regarding specifics of how those funds would be appropriated.

Dr. Gray noted that the plan is a risk for both sides and should have mutual safeguards and accountability measures of success. Mrs. Rutt asked that the motion be tabled until there was action on the Christina’s priority plan and a change in the wording on the resolution. Mr. Allen suggested that the motion be changed to include a caveat. Dr. Gray asked for a brief recess to ask counsel about procedural issues. The Board recessed at 3:46 p.m. and returned at 4:17 p.m. Dr. Gray noted that there was a motion to table the motion to approve the WEIC final proposal and a proposal to approve the plan with conditions including the approval of the Christina priority schools plans and change in the wording from “may” to “shall.” Mr. Allen noted that he felt confident with the submission and approval of the Christina priority schools plans but could not speak for the committee on the resolution re-wording. Mrs. Rutt withdrew her motion and Mr. Allen proposed the Board make a motion for conditional approval for the Department to approve the priority schools plans from Christina and formal action by WEIC on the wording change in the resolution. Mr. Allen asked the Board to take a recess so he could talk with members of the Committee. The Board recessed from 4:39 p.m. to 4:44 p.m.

Mr. Allen stated that after conferring with several members of the Committee they were proposing that all provisions in the resolution be removed and it be based on sufficient funding and take all responsibility away from this State Board and any future State Boards which addresses pausing the timetable. There was discussion on the necessary funding and supports being in place at every milestone and that redistricting is under the State Board’s purview. Since there was no interest in amending the motion Dr. Gray stated that it was time to vote and the motion on the table was the original motion which is to approve the WEIC Redistricting Plan with Addendum as presented. The motion failed with a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion was Mr. Melendez, Dr. Whittaker and Dr. Gray. Opposing the motion was Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Coverdale, Mr. Heffernan and Mrs. Rutt. A motion was then made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the WEIC Redistricting Plan with the following conditions added: approval of the Christina priority schools plans by the Department and change in wording of “shall” to “may” in the resolution. The motion carried by a roll call vote. Voting in favor of the motion was Dr. Whittaker, Mr. Melendez, Mrs. Rutt and Dr. Gray. Opposing the motion was Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Coverdale and Mr. Heffernan. It was noted that the Board would be sending a letter to Dr. Allen outlining the Board’s conditional approval.

The Board took a recess at 5:04 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. Mr. Melendez asked to be excused at this time.

**Revised Content Standards – World Languages Presentation and Action, Professional Standards Board, Presentation of Revised Arts Standards, World Language Immersion Program Update, Charter Schools, Regulations, Information Items, Adjournment**

Revised Content Standards – World Language Presentation and Action

Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson was joined by Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Director of World Languages and provided the Board with a brief presentation on the changes made to refresh these content standards. Language was revised to be more precise to align with expectations of the Common Core State Standards for ELA and more transparent in what learners can do with language. The revisions were reviewed by the Delaware World Language Teacher Leader Network which includes all school districts and several charters. Dr. Gray noted that the Secretary is seeking the approval of the State Board on the revised World Language Content Standards. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve these revised standards. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate was approved for publication on a motion by Mrs. Bunting that was seconded by Mrs. Rutt. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Note Present: Mr. Melendez).

Regulation 1590 – Delaware Administrator Standards was presented for action. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to amend the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

Ed TPA/PPAT: The Board was also presented with the following recommended cut scores:

PPAT: 38

edTPA:

13 rubric fields (for world language teachers) : 33

15 rubric fields (covers approx. 90% of certification fields) : 38

18 rubric fields (for multiple content combination fields - elementary) : 46

The PSB also recommended that the passing scores on each assessment be revisited in September 2017 using Delaware and national data.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve the cut scores effective July 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

### Presentation and Discussion of Revisions to Arts Standards

Michael Watson was joined by Deb Hansen in presenting the revisions to the Arts Standards. In 1997 the first set of standards for the arts were adopted by the Delaware State Board of Education. The standards were revised by arts educators ten years later and 2014 brought the release of new national standards in Dance, Media, Music, Theatre & Visual Arts, which reflect research-based practices in teaching and learning. Delaware's Arts standards were then revisited. Public workshops have also been held. These revisions will be presented to the State Board for action at its March meeting.

Secretary Godowsky asked to be excused at this time and Deputy Secretary Karen Field Rogers served as the Executive Secretary to the State Board.

### World Language Immersion Program Update

Michael Watson and Gregory Fulkerson provided an update to the Board on World Language Immersion Programs. There are five Chinese sites in Grades K-4 and 19 Spanish sites for Grades K-5. It was noted that ten percent of all Kindergartners are in an immersion program. The Board viewed a video of students in the Capital School District that participates in a Spanish Immersion Program. Mr. Watson complimented Dr. Fulkerson on the wide success of this program in Delaware.

### Charter Schools

David Blowman presented the Charter School items. The Board received an update on the closing of Delaware Met and the placement of all the students that attended Delaware Met. Four major modifications have been received to change enrollment: Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security, Delaware Design-Lab High School, First State Montessori Academy and Prestige Academy. Academia Antonia Alonso has also applied for a major modification to change its location.

### Department Regulations

The regulations from the Department on the agenda were for the Board's information only.

### Adjournment

Dr. Gray noted the personnel items for the Board's information. There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education